

Case 3204

***Viverra maculata* Gray, 1830 (currently *Genetta maculata*; Mammalia, Carnivora): proposed conservation of the specific name**

P. Gaubert¹, M. Tranier¹, G. Veron¹, D. Kock², A.E. Dunham³,
 P.J. Taylor⁴, C. Stuart⁵, T. Stuart⁵ and W.C. Wozencraft⁶
 (Addresses on p. 47)

Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.5 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of *Viverra maculata* Gray, 1830 (currently *Genetta maculata*; family VIVERRIDAE) for a species of African genet (a placental carnivore). The name is a junior primary homonym of *Viverra maculata* Kerr, 1792 (currently *Dasyurus maculatus*), which is used for a marsupial mammal commonly known as the Tiger quoll (family DASYURIDAE). However, the names apply to taxa that have not been considered congeneric since the early 19th century.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Carnivora; VIVERRIDAE; *Genetta maculata*; *Dasyurus maculatus*; Rusty-spotted genet; Africa.

1. Gray (1830; p. 9) described a new nominal species of African genet, which he named *Viverra maculata* (now *Genetta maculata*; family VIVERRIDAE). This species is commonly called the Rusty-spotted genet (see Crawford-Cabral, 1981).

2. *Viverra maculata* Gray, 1830 is a junior primary homonym of *Viverra maculata* Kerr, 1792 (p. 170), a name used for a marsupial (the Tiger quoll) that is now known scientifically as *Dasyurus maculatus* (family DASYURIDAE). This has led some authors to regard the junior name as invalid (see Crawford-Cabral, 1970, 1973, 1981; Rosevear, 1974; Coetzee, 1977; Ansell, 1978; Grubb et al., 1998). This was indeed the case until 2000, but the current edition of the Code (Article 23.9.5) prescribes that the case should be referred to the Commission to conserve the name *Genetta maculata* (Gray, 1830).

3. *Viverra maculata* Kerr, 1792 (marsupial mammal) and *Viverra maculata* Gray, 1830 (placental mammal) apply to taxa that have not been considered congeneric since the early 19th century. Indeed, Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (1803, 1804) considered *Viverra maculata* Kerr, 1792 (the name of the marsupial mammal) to be a senior synonym of his own name *Dasyurus macrourus* Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1803. From that time onwards, the marsupial species was included in the genera *Dasyurops* or *Dasyurus* (see Haltenorth, 1958; Mahoney & Ride, 1988; Groves, 1993) rather than in the genus *Viverra*. *Viverra maculata* Gray, 1830 (the name of the placental mammal) was considered by Gray (1843) to be a junior synonym of *Genetta senegalensis* (Fischer, 1829), although it was incorrect. Since Gray (1843), the nominal species *Viverra maculata* Gray, 1830 has been placed in *Genetta*, and not in *Viverra* (see Matschie, 1902; Schwartz, 1930; Schlawe, 1981).

4. There has been long debate about which specific name should be attributed to the species that is known in the vernacular as the Rusty-spotted genet. The name

Genetta rubiginosa Pucheran, 1855, which was commonly in use, can no longer be used since the type specimen associated with this name has been found to belong to another species that is currently known as *Genetta thierryi* Matschie, 1902 (see Schlawe, 1981; Crawford-Cabral, 1981; Crawford-Cabral & Fernandes, 1999; Gaubert et al., 2001). The only available name that has also been used to denote this species, either by including other species (see Schlawe, 1981; Fuller et al., 1990; Wozencraft, 1993; Angelici et al., 1999; Angelici, 2000) or exclusively (see Gaubert et al., 2002; Gaubert, in press), is *G. maculata* (Gray, 1830).

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the specific name *maculata* Gray, 1830, as published in the binomen *Viverra maculata* (family VIVERRIDAE), is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of the specific name *maculata* Kerr, 1792, as published in the binomen *Viverra maculata* (family DASYURIDAE);
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *maculata* Gray, 1830, as originally published in the binomen *Viverra maculata* (family VIVERRIDAE), ruled in (1) above to be not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of the name *Viverra maculata* Kerr, 1792 (family DASYURIDAE).

References

- Angelici, F.M. 2000. Food habits and resource partitioning of Carnivores (Herpestidae, Viverridae) in the rainforests of South-eastern Nigeria: preliminary results. *Revue d'Ecologie (Terre Vie)*, **55**: 67–76.
- Angelici, F.M., Grimod, I. & Politano, E. 1999. Mammals of the Eastern Niger Delta (Rivers and Bayelsa States, Nigeria): an environment affected by gas-pipeline. *Folia Zoologica*, **48**(4): 249–264.
- Ansell, W.F.H. 1978. *The mammals of Zambia*. 126 pp. The National Parks and Wildlife Service, Chilanga, Zambia.
- Coetsee, C.G. 1977. Order Carnivora. Part 8 in Meester, J. & Setzer, H.W. (Eds.), *The mammals of Africa: an identification manual*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C.
- Crawford-Cabral, J. 1970. As genetas da África Central. *Separata do Bolletim do Instituto de Investigação Científica de Angola*, **6**(1): 3–33.
- Crawford-Cabral, J. 1973. As genetas da Guiné Portuguesa e de Moçambique. 'Livro de Homenagem' ao Professor Fernando Frade Viegas da Costa 70.º aniversário, *Separata*: 133–155.
- Crawford-Cabral, J. 1981. The classification of the genets (Carnivora, Viverridae, genus *Genetta*). *Bolletim da Sociedade portuguesa de Ciências Naturais*, **20**: 97–114.
- Crawford-Cabral, J. & Fernandes, C. 1999. A comment on the nomenclature of the Rusty-spotted Genet. *Small Carnivore Conservation*, **21**: 12.
- Fuller, T.K., Biknevicius, A.R. & Kat, P.W. 1990. Movements and behavior of large spotted genets (*Genetta maculata* Gray 1830) near Elmenteita, Kenya (Mammalia, Viverridae). *Tropical Zoology*, **3**: 13–19.
- Gaubert, P. In press. Description of a new species of genet (Carnivora; Viverridae; genus *Genetta*) and taxonomic revision of forest forms related to the Large-spotted Genet complex. *Mammalia*.
- Gaubert, P., Veron, G. & Tranier, M. 2001. An investigation of morpho-anatomical characters within the genus *Genetta* (Carnivora, Viverridae), with a remark on *Osbornictis*, the aquatic Genet. Pp. 81–89 in Denys, C., Granjon, L. & Poulet, A. (Eds.), *African small mammals*. Paris.

- Gaubert, P., Veron, G. & Tranier, M. 2002. Genets and 'Genet-like' taxa (Carnivora, Viverrinae): Phylogenetic analysis, systematics and biogeographic implications. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, **134**: 317–334.
- Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, É. 1803. Note sur les espèces du genre Dasyure. *Bulletin de la Société Philomatique de Paris*, **3**(81): 258–259.
- Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, É. 1804. Mémoire sur les espèces du genre Dasyure. *Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris*, **3**: 353–363.
- Gray, J. 1830. *Spicilegium Zoologicum*. 12 pp. Treüttel, Würtz, London.
- Gray, J. 1843. *List of the specimens of Mammalia of the British Museum*. 216 pp. British Museum, London.
- Groves, C.P. 1993. Order Dasyuromorphia. Pp. 29–42 in Wilson, D.E. & Reeder, D.M. (Eds.). *Mammal species of the world*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington & London.
- Grubb, P., Jones, T.S., Davies, A.G., Edberg, E., Starin, E.D. & Hill, J.E. 1998. *Mammals of Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Gambia*. 256 pp. Trendrine Press, Cornwall.
- Haltenorth, T. 1958. Klassifikation der Säugetiere, 1 (1. Ordnung Kloakentiere, Monotremata Bonaparte, 1838. 2. Ordnung Beuteltiere. *Marsupialia* Illiger, 1811 [= *Didelphia* Blainville, 1816]). *Handbuch der Zoologie*, **8**(16): 1–40.
- Kerr, R. 1792. *The Animal Kingdom, or zoological system, of the celebrated Sir Charles Linnaeus; Class 1. Mammalia*. . . , vol. 1. 400 pp. Murray & Faulder, London.
- Mahoney, J.A. & Ride, W.D.L. 1988. Dasyuridae. Pp. 14–33 in Walton, D.W. (Ed.). *Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Vol. 5. Mammalia*. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.
- Matschie, P. 1902. Ueber die individuellen und geographischen Abänderungen der Ginsterkatzen. *Verhandlungen des V internationalen Zoologen-Congresses zu Berlin, 1901*: 1128–1144.
- Rosevear, D. 1974. *The Carnivores of West Africa*. 548 pp. British Museum (Natural History). London.
- Schlawe, L. 1981. Material, Fundorte, Text- und Bildquellen als Grundlagen für eine Artenliste zur Revision der Gattung *Genetta* G. CUVIER, 1816. *Zoologische Abhandlungen Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde in Dresden*, **37**(4): 85–182.
- Schwartz, E. 1930. Die Sammlung afrikanischer Säugetiere im Congo-Museum. Ginsterkatzen (Gattung *Genetta* Oken). *Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaine*, **19**(2): 275–286.
- Wozencraft, W.C. 1993. Order Carnivora. Pp. 279–348 in Wilson, D.E. & Reeder, D.M. (Eds.). *Mammal species of the world*. Ed. 2. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington & London.

Acknowledgement of receipt of this application was published in BZN **58**: 161.

¹Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire Zoologie: Mammifères & Oiseaux, 55 rue Buffon, F-75005 Paris, France

²Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Senckenberg-Anlage 25, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

³Department of Ecology and Evolution, State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY 11794, U.S.A.

⁴Durban Natural Science Museum, PO Box 4085, Durban 4000, Republic of South Africa

⁵African-Arabian Wildlife Research Centre, PO Box 6, Loxton 6985, Republic of South Africa

⁶Division of Natural Sciences, Bethel College, 1001 W. McKinley Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46545, U.S.A.

Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).